



City of San Marcos

NEWS

630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Millecam, Communications/ Intergovernmental Relations Director
512.393.8105 mmillecam@sanmarcostx.gov

Kristy Stark, Public Information Specialist CIP
512.393.8139 kstark@sanmarcostx.gov

10 a.m. Celebration Open to the Public

Dedication of City's Largest Transportation Project July 24

Mayor Susan Narvaiz will preside at the highly anticipated dedication and opening of the \$26.38 million Wonder World Drive Extension on Saturday, July 24, 2010, at 10 a.m. at the east end of the new parkway at Hunter Road. City, state, federal and county officials will participate in the celebration and the public is invited to attend.



BRIDGE BEAUTY! The Wonder World Drive extension meanders through beautiful Hill Country, much of it parkland, as the limited access parkway links Ranch Road 12 to Hunter Road and I-35. (Photo by Don Anders)

“The dedication of this significant roadway brings to fruition 20 years of committed efforts by our citizens, City Council, staff and the Texas Department of Transportation,” said Mayor Susan Narvaiz. “The extension provides a vital transportation artery linking Ranch Road 12 and the Hill Country to the I-35 corridor. This beautiful parkway will also reroute heavy truck and through traffic away from our historic neighborhoods and downtown.”

San Marcos voters approved the Wonder World Drive Extension in the 1998 bond election. Through the efforts of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congress allocated \$10 million in 2005 for right-of-way, studies, permits and engineering. The City of San Marcos financed the project construction with a pass-through agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation.

The day’s festivities kick off at 7 a.m. with the Run2Purgatory, a 5K Fun Run and Walk that is open to the public and free of charge. All race participants will receive a free commemorative t-shirt and can register on July 24 at the starting line on the east end of the Wonder World Drive Extension at Hunter Road.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies commence at 10 a.m. and include autos from Dick’s Classic Car Museum, introduction of dignitaries and dedication of the largest transportation project in the City’s history.

Along with live music, attendees will enjoy a thrilling Remote Control Car Race, a barbecue lunch prepared by City of San Marcos Fire and Police personnel, as well as guided tours of the new parkway and the Purgatory Creek Preserve hike and bike trail. The limited access parkway is bordered by more than 500 acres of dedicated city parkland.

Parking for the day’s events will be at the east end of the Wonder World Drive Extension at Hunter Road and police officers will be on hand to direct traffic. Handicap and VIP parking will be available. Overflow parking will be located at Hernandez Intermediate School, 333 Stagecoach Trail.

Following conclusion of the festivities, construction crews will remove barricades and prepare for the 6 p.m. opening of the roadway from Hunter Road to Ranch Road 12. The Craddock Avenue Extension will remain under construction with an anticipated fall completion date.

The 3.2 mile masterpiece project was designed by KBR of Austin and is being built by J.C. Evans Construction of Leander under the direction of Interim City Manager, Laurie Moyer, Director of Capital Improvements, David Healey and Assistant Director of Public Services, Sabas Avila.

The pass-through agreement provides that TxDOT will reimburse the City from \$3 to \$6 million a year for a ten to twenty year period, based upon traffic volume. Permanent traffic counters will record traffic volumes on the roadway between Hunter Road and Ranch Road 12 with the first payment to the City scheduled to occur 13 months after the July 24 opening.

For more information on this project or the ribbon cutting event, call the City of San Marcos Capital Improvements Department at 512.393.8130 or email cip@sanmarcostx.gov.

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